

Amendment
Serial No. **10/532,129**
Attorney Docket No. **052449**

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 20 has been amended to recite that the regeneration mode of operation comprises at least one mode of operation with two pilot injections.

Further, new claims 21-22 dependent on claims 20 and 1, respectively, have been added to recite that, in the regeneration operating mode, the injection means are suitable for implementing a series of injections consisting of (i) a plurality of pilot injections comprising at least two pilot injections triggered in a crankshaft angle range from approximately 50° to approximately 5° ahead of the top dead centre of the cylinder concerned and (ii) the single main injection triggered in an undercalibrated range up to a crankshaft angle of approximately 35° after the top dead centre. Support for the added recitations is found in the original application, for example, original claims 1 and 5 and on page 5, lines 8-9 and Fig. 3.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-13, 15-17, and 19-20 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 6,901,747 to Tashiro et al.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 is directed in particular to a system with a standard mode of operation using a lean mixture with one pilot injection and one main injection, in which NO_x are stored in the trap, and a regeneration mode of operation using a rich mixture, with at least two pilot or main injections depending on the engine load, in which NO_x are released from the trap and the trap is regenerated.

In other words, the regeneration mode of operation comprises at least one mode of operation with two pilot injections depending on the engine load.

Amendment
Serial No. **10/532,129**
Attorney Docket No. **052449**

This aspect has been recited explicitly in claim 20.

In view of the above, Tashiro is completely silent regarding the features of the presently claimed invention as recited in claim 20. Accordingly, present claim 20 is not anticipated by, and not obvious over, Tashiro.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 502759.

Respectfully submitted,

/nicolas seckel/

Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373

Nicolas E. Seckel
Patent Attorney
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 669-5169
Fax: (202) 822-1257
Customer No.: 29980
NES/rep